

**NCES Academic Library Survey  
Advisory Committee Meetings  
Boston, MA  
Minutes**

**Meeting:** Thursday, January 13, 2005, 2 pm – 5:15 pm, Hynes Convention Center, Room 307

**Present:**

**Committee Members:** Denise Davis (convener and recorder), Martha Kyrillidou, Leslie Manning, Bill Miller, Carolyn Norman.

**Ex Officio:** Patty O'Shea (Census), Bob Molyneux (NCLIS), Kaleen Vaden (Census), Jeff Williams (NCES).

**Guest:** Patricia Harris, Director, National Information Standards Organization.

Susan Anderson, Victoria Hanawalt (Oberlin Group), Brinley Franklin and Hugh Thompson (ACRL) were unable to attend.

1. Preliminaries
  - a. Introductions
  - b. Logistics (breaks, other)
  - c. Minutes approval, Annual Conference meeting, Orlando
  - d. Agenda review, any new items

**Information Items**

2. NCES update (Jeff Williams)

Jeff Williams reported Richard Lerner was not confirmed as Commissioner by the US Senate; Russ Whitehurst (IES) remains acting Commissioner for NCES. Adrienne Chute is now half-time with the Library Program until further notice.

NCES is working toward providing password access to the academic library data for institutions that have reported and locked its data during this data collection cycle. This access precedes access to the Peer Comparison Tool. A question was raised about who should have access to these data.

There is a different publication review process that has slowed things down. NCES and its parent agency are looking into efficiencies to improve this.

3. Census update (Patty O'Shea and Kaleen Vaden)

Kaleen Vaden provided handouts of response rates as of 1-12-05 at 35%, which is slightly lower than the same period with the 2002 survey, but the 2004 survey started about a month later. Additional reminders will go out in January and February. The 2002 study had an 88% response rate.

Taking from the IPEDS universe, 41 institutions were not eligible to respond to the library survey and 173 additional institutions were surveyed in 2004 from 2002.

A handout of screen shots was provided

4. Other surveys and projects that do or could have an impact on NCES/ALS
  - a. ACRL (Thompson)
    - i. Question about 2003 data response rate; universe of responses since 2000 by Carnegie classification for US and Canadian institutions.
    - ii. Discussion of ARL questionnaire and NCES ALS universe.
  - b. ARL (Kyrillidou)
    - i. The new supplementary questions are the former emetrics questions. A handout was provided of institution response rates for the supplemental questions in 2003-2004. These are being asked of law and health sciences libraries.
    - ii. 204 libraries participated in LibQUAL in 2004; Dutch and Swedish versions available, as well as an Afrikaans version. 210 institutions expected to participate in 2005. DigiQUAL counterpart survey being launched in 2005 for NSDL-affiliated libraries.
    - iii. MINES project collects data monthly from 16 libraries in Canada (OPUL).
    - iv. Making Library Assessment Work to help libraries use the data they collect.
    - v. Three new strategic directions: information policy, scholarly publication, and how libraries contribute to learning.
  - c. Oberlin Group (handout)
  - d. NCLIS (Bob Molyneux)
    - i. Some results of a small survey of academic libraries 1908-2003 to discover how well library expenditures matched inflation (performed better than inflation 26 times). Report on NCLIS website <http://www.nclis.gov/statsurv/NCES/arl/index.html>.
    - ii. NCLIS funding decreased slightly in FY05, NCES support continues.
  - e. NISO Blue Ribbon Panel (Pat Harris, 3-3:30pm)
    - i. Put in place in fall 2004 as part of the NISO strategic planning initiative – consider what changes are happening in the world and how NISO responds to these changes. Clifford Lynch (CNI) to lead this work. A report is expected in February 2005 and is expected to be released shortly thereafter. The NISO Board will frame a response to this report as part of the first draft of a strategic plan.
    - ii. Standards needs across the information community. A Mellon Grant is providing support for an external review activity. “Thought Leader Survey,” member survey, and environmental scan to understand NISO’s place in the standards community.
    - iii. ALS Advisory Committee and other library statistics program will be asked to review and comment on this report.
5. Survey response issues, problem questions, etc. (Q 10-14, 22, 26, 27)  
(Census staff, NCES staff, Davis)  
Jeff Williams added two questions to the list:

Materials that are cataloged but not purchased by the library (electronic book/monograph government documents). The AC felt the distinguishing factor was access through a catalog rather than collections paid for. The committee needs examples of the titles under question. There appears to be a discrepancy between monographs and serials. The suggestion was to add a line to deal with cataloged, but not paid for, library items. This will be addressed for the 2006 survey. Another question about how to report electronic resources that are not paid for by a library was discussed. The AC will discuss these and other survey concerns in more depth at its June 2005 meeting.

6. Survey process issues – survey question changes after committee review and approval (e.g., literacy questions) (Norman)
  - a. Carolyn Norman summarized the concern of how this committee functioned around questions added to the NCES ALS survey and the ACRL survey. The NCES questions changed, the ACRL questions did not. What is the process?
  - b. Jeff Williams confirmed that any new items in the ALS survey be vetted with the AC. This particular situation was a matter of timing
  - c. A guidebook was recommended – Jeff Williams, Patty O’Shea, Kaleen Vaden, and Denise Davis will work on developing this, including a project chronology.
7. OMB Calendar issues (from Orlando discussion)
  - a. Jeff Williams reported that for the 2006 survey a full OMB clearance package is required, with a deadline of March 2006. A full OMB clearance package is required every three years. The AC will meet two days in June 2005 and January 2006.
  - b. Minor changes made within the three-year clearance package period may only require a memo to OMB for approval.
8. Timeliness of data – delay in having 2000 data and EDTab online, status of 2002 final data file and EDTab (Williams)
  - a. Jeff Williams reported the 2000 EDTab was released in November 2003, the data file has not been released due to NCES library program resource issues (e.g., staffing). The decision was made to put available resources into getting the 2002 preliminary data in the peer tool. The peer tool was updated with 2002 data in June 2004.
  - b. Carl Schmitt (NCES) will help with getting the 2002 ALS data prepared as an EDTab and it should be out March 2005; final data files for 2000 and 2002 at approximately the same time.
9. Strategy for getting ALS back into IPEDS (Norman)
  - a. Concern was expressed that since IPEDS became mandatory and the ALS was removed, library data are disassociated from other higher education data and campus statistics. Some implications are in support of the survey by Census and a loss of expertise. NCES reminded the AC of the rationale for removing the library program from the mandatory IPEDS survey set. Delays in IPEDS were reported (e.g., 3 year delay on financial data).

- b. Data are needed annually for a variety of reasons. Concern was raised that moving the ALS back into IPEDS would give the library the kind of support needed for marketing, etc.
  - c. NCES, ACRL and ARL should look at other avenues to position library statistics in the broader arena of education.
- 10. Procedure for replacing ALS committee members – term length, etc. (Davis)
  - a. Perhaps add an LR to the AC, and someone who is the state data coordinator.
  - b. Questions were raised about survey duplication when response rates for ACRL rises to 80%.
  - c. There may be policy questions that could be added to the ALS to distinguish it from the other academic library surveys.
- 11. A question was raised about the searchability of the ALS peer tool. A revision is underway. Other functionality, such as downloading search results, will be included in a revised version of the peer tool.

The committee adjourned at 5:20 pm.